

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01005 032013Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4977

S E C R E T MAPUTO 1005

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FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAG: PFOR MZ

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MACHEL

REF: MAPUTO 1000

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PANGUENE SUMMONED ME TO FOREIGN MINISTRY EARLY THIS EVENING. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENT MACHEL TO SAY THAT "IT IS NOT AN OPPORTUNE TIME" FOR THE SECRETARY TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE. PANGUENE SAID IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF THE DATE; THE PRESIDENT FELT THAT THE "MOMENT" WAS NOT RIGHT FOR A VISIT. PENGUENE SAID THE PRESIDENT HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD.

2. COMMENT: AFTER YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, AT WHICH MACHEL PROFESSED AND DISPLAYED INTEREST IN USG INITIATIVE, EVEN ASKING ME TO PASS SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS ON TO YOU, THE REJECTION TONIGHT OF YOUR VISIT TO MAPUTO CAME AS A SURPRISE. WHY HE TURNED IT DOWN, I CAN ONLY SPECULATE (AND WILL DO SO IN SEPTEL). IT WAS CLEAR PANGUENE WAS NOT GOING TO VOLUNTEER ANY EXPLANATION. NOR, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DID I THINK IT PROPER FOR A US AMBASSADOR TO SEEK AN EXPLANATION OR EVEN TO EXPRESS REGRET. THE REASON WHY WE THOUGHT THE INITIATIVE MERITED AFRICAN SUPPORT, INCLUDING MACHEL'S HAD IN MY OPINION BEEN PERSUASIVELY MADE BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE IN HIS MEETING WITH MACHEL.

DE PREE

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